



RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOSH GREEN'S PROPOSED "TRAVEL WITH ALOHA" PROGRAM TO ALLOW FOR THE REOPENING OF AIR TRAVEL TO HAWAII WHILE MINIMIZING THE RISK OF IMPORTING THE CORONAVIRUS FROM TRAVELING VISITORS AND RETURNING RESIDENTS.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, due to the outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus and known as COVID-19, the Governor issued a Proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency in the State of Hawaii ("State") and invoked his authority under the Hawaii Emergency Management Act, Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 127A; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic of international concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Governor issued a Second Supplementary Proclamation, imposing a mandatory 14-day quarantine on all persons, including both returning residents and out-of-state visitors, entering Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued a Third Supplementary Proclamation, which required all residents to remain at home except to engage in specified essential businesses and activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Governor issued a Fourth Supplementary Proclamation, which expanded the mandatory 14-day quarantine on all persons, including both returning residents and out-of-state visitors, entering Hawaii, to also include interisland travelers effective as of April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020, the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization ("UHERO") reported that:

- Efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus have effectively shut down a significant part of Hawaii's economy because the mandatory 14-day self-quarantine requirement largely put a stop to tourism, and the stay-at-home order for all non-essential workers shuttered many businesses;
- This unprecedented pause in economic activity has had a profoundly negative impact on Hawaii, with a sharp drop in spending, employment,



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and income, including job losses that peaked at approximately 220,000 in April; and

- It estimates that by December of this year only half of tourism arrivals lost to the pandemic will have recovered and only 75 percent of economic activity lost due to the stay-at-home order will have been reversed; and

WHEREAS, the mandatory 14-day quarantine on incoming travelers has:

- Successfully decreased arrivals by 98 to 99 percent compared to 2019 arrival numbers; and
- Successfully reduced the rate of COVID-19 infection, commonly referred to as "flattening of the curve," which is reflected in the average number of confirmed new cases of COVID-19 during the 10-day period from March 22, 2020 to March 31, 2020 of 15.4 per day, compared to the average number of confirmed new cases of COVID-19 during the 10-day period from May 7, 2020 to May 16, 2020 of 0.4 per day; and

WHEREAS, despite the success of the mandatory 14-day quarantine combined with the Governor's recent extension of the quarantine through June 30, 2020, the number of arriving visitors from the continental U.S. and other countries has steadily and ominously risen as reflected in the number of average visitor arrivals to the State during the 10-day period from March 26, 2020 to April 4, 2020 of 146 per day, compared to the number of average visitor arrivals during the 10-day period from May 7, 2020 to May 16 2020 of 262 per day; and

WHEREAS, the increase in visitor arrivals in spite of the quarantine:

- Points to pent-up demand from overseas travelers who see Hawaii as a safe and welcoming place, even in the middle of a pandemic;
- Reveals shortcomings in a less-than-airtight quarantine system intended to minimize the risk of importing COVID-19 to our State, but which growing numbers of visitors apparently perceive to have easily-navigable loopholes with which to avoid these intended safety measures; and
- Highlights the distinction that it is visitors to Hawaii who present the greatest risk of importing and spreading COVID-19 to Hawaii since, unlike returning residents who have homes here in which to reliably and comfortably ride out the quarantine and family and friends to procure provisions for them, visitors, when faced with the prospect of being



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confined in a hotel room for 14 days when the sights and sounds of paradise are tantalizingly close by, experience the greatest temptation to violate the requirements of the quarantine; and

WHEREAS, an ongoing tension between public health priorities and jumpstarting the economy is evident in the push and pull of: a) keeping the people of Hawaii safe from the expected second wave of COVID-19 that likely will be precipitated by importing the virus through incoming visitors on the one hand, and b) seeking a timely resumption of tourism in order to put residents back to work and pull back from the economic cliff that threatens our financial and social fabric on the other; and

WHEREAS, leaders in the tourism industry have noted that Hawaii's visitor industry will not resume in earnest while the demand-dropping mandatory visitor quarantine is in place, since it effectively serves as an economic deal-breaker until the quarantine can be ended or mitigated; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2020, Lieutenant Governor Josh Green proposed a "Travel With Aloha" program that seeks to safeguard Hawaii from importing the coronavirus through incoming visitors, while maintaining a welcoming aloha to Hawaii, by:

- Providing travelers with an alternative to undergoing the ongoing 14-day quarantine requirement through the use of voluntary rapid-result testing for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to boarding their flights to Hawaii;
- Allowing travelers testing negative for COVID-19 to be exempted from the 14-day quarantine requirements, which is critical since the Governor has already extended the quarantine through June 30, 2020, and has not indicated when the mandatory quarantine requirements might be lifted;
- Adopting practices already implemented by Iceland, the United Arab Emirates, and Guam, which all request pre-boarding tests of arriving travelers; and
- Taking advantage of a new antigen test produced by the Quidel Corporation that was recently provided emergency authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and which can provide rapid pre-boarding results within minutes by identifying proteins in the blood consistent with COVID-19 infection; and



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WHEREAS, in conjunction with and in support of the "Travel With Aloha" proposal, Congressman Ed Case has sent a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") that:

- Seeks the FAA's cooperation in confirming Hawaii's ability to impose and enforce conditions, including before-boarding testing of all intended passengers on direct flights to Hawaii, which are critical to ensuring: a) the health of Hawaii's residents and visitors, and b) the safe recovery of Hawaii's economy, especially the travel and tourism industry;
- Points out that despite the mandatory 14-day quarantine of incoming travelers, the number of visitors to Hawaii has been increasing rapidly in the month of May;
- Emphasizes that because these visitors arrive from various destinations that make varying and uncertain efforts to mitigate the public health effects of COVID-19, it is reasonable for Hawaii to seek to institute pre-boarding conditions to minimize an unacceptable risk to public health wherever and whenever possible; and
- Requests the FAA to respond to the letter no later than May 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the "Travel With Aloha" proposal strikes a prudent and needed balance between maintaining public health and safety, and welcoming visitors back to Hawaii in order to restart the economy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it expresses support for Lieutenant Governor Josh Green's proposed "Travel With Aloha" program to allow for the reopening of air travel to Hawaii while minimizing the risk of importing the coronavirus from traveling visitors and returning residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the State Legislature are urged to take whatever administrative and legislative actions are necessary to establish and implement the "Travel With Aloha" program as soon as possible; and



No. 20-133

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Hawaii State Senate, the Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAY 20 2020

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 20-133

Introduced: 05/20/20 By: BRANDON ELEFANTE Committee: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
IKAICA ANDERSON AND REVITALIZATION

Title: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOSH GREEN'S PROPOSED "TRAVEL WITH ALOHA" PROGRAM TO ALLOW FOR THE REOPENING OF AIR TRAVEL TO HAWAII WHILE MINIMIZING THE RISK OF IMPORTING THE CORONAVIRUS FROM TRAVELING VISITORS AND RETURNING RESIDENTS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

05/27/20	ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND REVITALIZATION	CR-139 RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION. 5 AYES: ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MENOR, WATERS 1 EXCUSED: MANAHAN
06/01/20	COUNCIL	CR-139 AND RESOLUTION 20-133 WERE ADOPTED. 9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK


IKAICA ANDERSON, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER